

For the Tribune.
TIME.—
AN EXTRACT FROM A MANUSCRIPT POEM.

BY AUGUSTUS SNOOKES.

YEA, Ruins upon Ruins! Then have come,
Time, from the depth of ages, and the fall
Of Nations, and the palest City's gloom,
Columns and arch and massive-enclosed wall
Hang on thy footsteps. As the banquet hall
When Revelry hath ceased, and the pale sky
Gaze within, the Reveller treads, and pall
And images of death glare on his eye—
Thus over the Earth, thy feet move silently:

And slow and silent like the change of leaves
By the chill breath of Autumn, the high stone
Falleth low, and the voiceless dust receives
Its voices whispering: With a hollow moan,
Like night winds through the forest, weak and lone
The proum man dieth; and the flashing eyes
Of scornful Beauty, weeping are upthrown

Like the World's Monarch from his seat, smile on me!

Earth has its poisons, and what though we feed

A little hour on them? The great and good,
The weak and Evil have their lot, and Need
Doth fashion them, even as the steel's subtilty
By fire and hammer. The ironman brood

Of Hate and Slander have their bungs, and must

Like Serpents use them. From their claws ride

The strong scutums sustained by inward trust,

And shake them from their necks into their native dust:

But Earth is not all evil! The lone night

Hath stars and Beauty, and a voice that makes

The old heart young. In rapturous delight

The hours fly on to him who never forgets

That inward law, which if a joy it takes

Fields us another, with a brighter glow.

He who his thirst from healing fountains takes

Drinks warmblood' and let festing pleasures grow

Into a burden huge of never-ending woe!

Norwich, N. E.

—From Blackwood for June.

THE VENETIAN PRISONS.

We are now in prison—in a Venetian dungeon—with our reader for a companion. How atrociously ingenious, how diabolically inventive is cruelty!

In a cell, which we enter stooping, we are made to notice that the round hole above the door from the passage by which it is entered, while it admits air enough to keep a prisoner alive, and was not meant to do more, excludes even the companion ship of the solitary candle, which was permitted only at noon time. The light was placed without, and opposite to the air-hole, so as to throw merely a small circular hole on the prison walls. These awful enclosures bear strong testimony also to the endurance of man in suffering, and prove that mind may even be active, and that a certain exertion of its powers is possible in utter darkness and hopeless confinement, aggravated too often by the anticipation of a sanguinary death, of which the only uncertainty was the when and the way. Upon the stone over which we stumble as we enter, Byron, composing his "Foscari," is said to have looked darkly in the face for several hours at a time. These horrid cells have even their curiosities! Of all the portraits of themselves which painters have bequeathed, none which we ever yet beheld interested us like two profiles on one low roof—a king head, with a crown on, and by another face. These are the Paduan tyrant, Carrara, and his son, who were certainly strangled within these dungeons. Availing himself of the hour when his star, the candle, shone from the hole above, each with a charred spoon for a pencil, is said to have marked the shadow of the other on the roof. Four centuries and more have rolled by, but well does the indelible charcoal still cling to the dry stone wall. Nor without its interest is the scrawl of a poor illiterate fellow, who records of himself only his own misery disposition, though doomed to live and die here, as were all who passed along this narrow fatal corridor. * * * Some have drawn churches on the walls, with "Come let us wot up God in his sanctuary!" Priests in their captivity here acknowledge their fidelity to the Holy See; their names and that of their cure may be read, and "Long life to the holy Roman Catholic Church!" just as the soldiers who sank before him in attempting a river they could not ford, cried "Vive l'Empereur!" Concerning this same Roman Catholic Church, by the way, that never had a schism; Venice, not three centuries ago, defied the Pope's terrible prerogative of excommunication. She shut up the church and the chapel, and laid hold on the priests, calling herself, nevertheless, both Roman and Catholic. On the other hand, to make Bologna and Pavia obedient subjects, his holiness erased them from the list of candidates for heaven. We entered one cell which had a window, as well as a door; and what a window! By its side a hole is wrought in the wall, sufficient for the introduction of a cord. It was pointed out to us. We should have overlooked it. Under that window, within, is the very stone, of a proper height, for the victim to sit on and be strangled like poultry—to have his neck wrung (oh, damnable and bloody man!) against the unyielding iron of his ensoulment! The next cell, number six, we believe, smells strong of the fire lighted by a blessed soul some thirty years ago. "Sweet smells the old carbon!"

Another cell, and the last, is that in which a frantic wife of Dalmatia was confined for fourteen years. He was, they say, the only surviving victim of the inquisitor's tribunal, when the secret state was first detected, and the people rushed down to the cells. He had shot his brother, a priest, while he was officiating at the high altar in Zara. He died about forty-four days after his liberation, aged thirty-five years. His nervous system, not able to sustain the stimulation of air and light, to which he had been so long unused, reacted on the machine, and put an end to its functions! This cell has been spared as a specimen to posterity, and is even, as it was, and as they all were, a wild beast's den, vaulted with Istrian marble above, and ribbed all round with wood, and riveted to the walls with large nails. Its shape is exactly that of a trunk which you pack clothes in—trunk with a round top. This is a colossal, impenetrable trunk. At one foot above the ground you see the planks still ready for the bed of straw; you see the shelf for the water and the loaf of bread; and you see, and shudder, at the one small air-hole above his pallet, from the dark cell into the dark corridor, at the end of which corridor there is a small slit, whence a glimmer of daylight comes to scare the very visitor, who may go away when he pleases. But these are not all the horrors. Here rolled the head from the decapitated trunk; through these round holes fell the ensanguined sawdust into the sun, making the green red; for these prisons are only just above the level of the water. Glad are you to ascend the dungeon steps; in doing which you obtain, through a somberly lighted cell, a view of the Bridge of Sighs, with the stern-looking marble heads which project high relief from the covered arch. What sounds are these? Is it possible that man can sing and wrangle behind the deeply receding windows, with the double bars, of such a locality? Yes! for they are here for a certain season only. They had no Bridges of Sights to cross. Their friends know where they are, and why they have eyes, and see the light; they have ears, to catch the sound sounds on the quay below. The hellish judgements of the Two and of the Three have faded for ever. They shall not die like poultry, not even though they had committed one of the four capital crimes which Paul Veronese has painted in the Judgement Hall. A friend of ours has put his hand into the Lion's mouth, to satisfy himself that there are really no secret denunciations unswallowed in his asphagous. The Austrian and his soldiers may be hated; but he would not drown his state prisoners. The silent mischiefs of the officer of the night, and the mysterious disappearances of men, whose house and family shall know them no more, can no longer intimidate. More are those mites, who used to conduct him up the Scala Segreta to the presence of remorseless judges; perhaps out of rooms of State in his own

palace, whose walls were hung with Titian's or Paul Veronese's pictures—rooms in which the owner banqueted, but yesterday in full security. From such rooms also came the judges themselves, to deprive numbers of their fellow men of hearing and of sight. Portraits of three of these wretches, in purple and in crimson, are shown in one of the rooms.

The very Doges themselves, it seems, were not safe; one of them, Grimani, was confined eighteen months, on the suppition of his aiming at despotism. The inquisitor's council discovered their mistake, and caused Titian to record it by the beautiful picture called "The Triumph of the Glory of the Cross." The upper prisons, though they bear the ominous title "Sotteri Plumbi," are very different places of confinement. Here there is light and fresh air. The roof of lead is full four feet above the wooden ceiling of the room. In short, Silvio Pollicino has made the most of a prison no means bad. They pointed out to us his room, where a detachment of pigeons, from the Piazza, were cooing and pursuing each other along the ledge of his window-sill—an episode which, had it occurred during his confinement, would doubtless have called forth some very touching apostrophe to the reader's feelings.

RATTLESNAKES IN TEXAS.—The following is from S. W. Kendall's history of the Santa Fe Expedition:

I neglected to mention in my lasta troublesome visitor we had in camp on the night of the 4th of July. It rained on first reaching camp, inducing the mists to which I was attached, to raise a tent. The wet grass without probably drove a rattlesnake to more comfortable quarters, and the first intimation we had of his vicinity was he crawling over one of us inside the tent in the endeavor to effect a lodgement under some of the blankets. A more disagreeable companionship cannot well be imagined, even if a person had the entire pick of every living, moving, creeping, flying, running, swimming and crawling thing, and to say that any of us felt perfectly easy with such a neighbor among us, would be saying what is most likely to occur. As it is, the world need not be at all surprised to read in the news-papers one of these days that St. Petersburg, after rising like a bright meteor from the swamps of Finland, has suddenly been extinguished in them like a willow-twig. May Heaven protect the city!

[Foreign Quarterly Review.]

TWO SAIL BOATS FOR SALE.—

The Henry Clay and General Scott, each twenty feet in length, both sail boats—each extensible by posts of their class in this city; fitted in superior style and in first rate order. Can be seen at Bishop & Simonds' shipyard, foot of Sixthstreet. Apply to C. M. SIMONSON, 64 Columbus-street.

MILITARY GOODS below cost, at

24 Maiden Lane.—The subscriber having relinquished the military business and removed his goods from 19 Broadway to 24 Maiden Lane, now offers the same at

one excellent trait in the character of these repulses—they never bite unless disturbed, and will get out of the way as soon as possible, except, perhaps, in the month of August, when they are said to be blind and will snap at anything and every thing they may hear about them.

Tarantulas, too, are frequently found upon and under the blanket of the campaigner, and are said to be as poisonous as the rattlesnake. They are a large, black, venomous looking spider, nearly as large as a common tea-cup, and their bite is said to be even worse than that of the rattlesnake.—When stung with a stick they will rear up on their hind legs and attempt to bite, and are extremely ferocious in every respect. The least scratch from their long fangs throws a person into convulsions, and will produce death unless immediate medical remedies are presented. The ballet of the La Tarantule, in which Elsiger gained much applause, is a beautiful creation, although founded upon a superstition of the Italians. The bite of the real tarantula drives a person to any thing but dancing—seen that species of the fire-starts order so beautifully given by the fair Fanny in the ballet I have alluded to. 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